

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 26, 2006. Claims 37 to 54 are pending in the application, of which Claims 37, 42, 43, 48, 49 and 54 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Office Action alleged that the drawings failed to show “a setting file that includes information to designate a print file”. Without conceding the correctness of the objection, the objection is nonetheless believed to be rendered moot in view of present amendments to the claims which remove the objected-to phrase. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 37, 38, 40, 43, 44, 46, 49, 50 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,509,974 (Hansen). Claims 39, 45 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hansen. Claims 41, 47 and 53 were rejected under § 103(a) over Hansen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,792,577 (Kimoto). Claims 42, 48 and 54 were rejected under § 103(a) over Hansen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,697,942 (L’Heureux). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 37, 43 and 49

The invention of independent Claims 37, 43 and 49 generally concerns printing using electronic mail. Among its many features, the invention of Claims 37, 43 and 49 includes the feature of receiving an electronic mail including a setting file for setting a format, a plurality of print files, and a message body that includes information to designate the setting file and information to designate the plurality of print files.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 43 as amended is directed to a printing method. The method includes a receiving step for receiving an electronic mail including a setting file for setting a format, a plurality of print files, and a message body that includes information to designate the setting file and information to designate the plurality of print files. The method also includes a printing step for printing the plurality of print files, designated by the information to designate the setting file, in the format set by the setting file.

Independent Claims 37 and 49 are directed to a printer and a computer program, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 43.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 37, 43 and 49, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of receiving an electronic mail including a setting file for setting a format, a plurality of print files, and a message body that includes information to designate the setting file and information to designate the plurality of print files.

As understood by Applicant, Hansen discloses providing production printing instructions for a printed end document to a job preparation station. The printed end document is made up of a plurality of other documents received from the customer which are to be inserted in a predefined order and in a predefined format. The job submission station includes a computer and a receiver which receives the plurality of documents in electronic format. The job submission station operator uses an input device to arrange all of the documents into an electronic folder, such as a directory, and to arrange the documents in which the documents are to be printed to compose the end document. The computer is programmed to automatically covert the document into a ready for printer format file and merge the plurality of documents together to create a single document, as

well as generating an electronic job ticket which provides global job attributes for the printed end product. See Hansen, Abstract and Column 2, line 25.

Page 3 of the Office Action asserts that Hansen (Figure 1a, Figure 4, Column 3, line 45, Column 6, lines 25 to 30 and 45 to 60 and Column 11, lines 30 to 40) discloses receiving an electronic mail including a setting file for setting a format and a print file.

However, Hansen is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of receiving an electronic mail including a setting file for setting a format, a plurality of print files, and a message body that includes information to designate the setting file and information to designate the plurality of print files.

In particular, the portions of Hansen cited by the Office Action are seen to disclose that a customer may transmit a job to a print shop via electronic mail or an internet order. See Hansen, Figure 1a and Column 3, lines 40 to 45. In preparing the job, the print shop may provide additional services, such as adding page numbers and adjusting page layouts. See Hansen, Column 6, lines 25 to 30 and 45 to 60. Workflow management software allows an operator to set page features and formatting such as stapling and hole punching. See Hansen, Column 11, lines 30 to 40. A graphical user interface display at a job preparation station may display document objects which contain ticket objects labeled “print settings”. See Hansen, Figure 4 and Column 16, lines 9 to 14 and 24 to 26.

However, none of these portions of Hansen are seen to disclose or suggest that an electronic mail is received which includes a setting file for setting a format, a plurality of print files, and a message body that includes information to designate the setting file and information to designate the plurality of print files.

In particular, Hansen simply describes that a customer may transmit a print job to a print shop by electronic mail. See Hansen, Column 3, lines 40 to 46. Hansen is not seen to suggest any particular structure of the email at all, much less that the email sent by the customer includes a setting file for setting a format, a plurality of print files, and a message body that includes information to designate the setting file and information to designate the plurality of print files. In fact, the Office Action concedes on Page 6 that “Hansen does not specifically teach how the email is set up to submit that job.”

Moreover, Hansen is seen to disclose that the “print settings” ticket objects are created and processed at the print shop, rather than being received by the print shop. In particular, job ticket objects are produced at the print shop based on customer instructions, or may be pre-defined for standardized instruction sets. See Hansen, Column 3, line 57 to Column 4, line 6.

Accordingly, Hansen is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of receiving an electronic mail including a setting file for setting a format, a plurality of print files, and a message body that includes information to designate the setting file and information to designate the plurality of print files.

L’Heureux is not seen to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Hansen. As understood by Applicants, L’Heureux discloses a data formatting method for embedding diverse data types in an electronic mail message. An electronic mail message segment may contain commands to be executed at a desktop e-mail terminal. See L’Heureux, Abstract and Column 13, lines 15 to 27. However, L’Heureux is not seen to disclose anything to do with printing at all, much less receiving an electronic mail including a setting file for setting a format, a plurality of print files, and a message body

that includes information to designate the setting file and information to designate the plurality of print files.

Kimoto has been reviewed and is not seen to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Hansen and L'Heureux.

Accordingly, Claims 37, 43 and 49 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests same.

Claims 42, 48 and 54

The invention of independent Claims 42, 48 and 54 likewise generally concerns printing using electronic mail. Among its many features, the invention of Claims 42, 48 and 54 includes the feature of receiving an electronic mail including a plurality of print files and a message body that includes information to set a format and information to designate the plurality of print files.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 48 is directed to a printing method. The method includes a receiving step of receiving an electronic mail including a plurality of print files, and a message body that includes information to set a format and information to designate the plurality of print files. The method also includes a printing step of printing the plurality of print files, designated by the information to designate the plurality of print files, in the format set by the information to set the format.

Independent Claims 42 and 54 are directed to a printer and a program, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 48.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention of Claims 42, 48 and 54, and in particular is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of receiving an electronic mail including a plurality of print files and a

message body that includes information to set a format and information to designate the plurality of print files.

In particular, as discussed in detail above, Hansen is not seen to disclose or to suggest any particular structure of an email containing a print job at all. Accordingly, Hansen is also not seen to disclose or suggest that an electronic mail is received including a plurality of print files and a message body that includes information to set a format and information to designate the plurality of print files.

As discussed above, L'Heureux is not seen to remedy the shortcomings of Hansen, and in fact is not seen to disclose anything having to do with printing at all.

Kimoto has been reviewed and is not seen to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Hansen and L'Heureux.

Therefore, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of receiving an electronic mail including a plurality of print files and a message body that includes information to set a format and information to designate the plurality of print files.

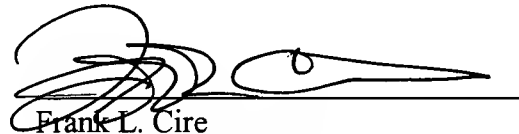
Accordingly, Claims 42, 48 and 54 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests same.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', is written over a horizontal line.

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